

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub B1
1 1. A fragmented biocompatible hydrogel which is
2 substantially free from an aqueous phase.

1 2. The hydrogel of claim 1, having a subunit size
2 when fully hydrated in the range from 0.01 mm to 5 mm.

1 3. The hydrogel of claim 1, having an equilibrium
2 swell from 400% to 5000%.

1 4. The hydrogel of claim 1, having an in vivo
2 degradation time of less than one year.

1 5. The hydrogel of claim 1, having at least one
2 characteristic selected from the group consisting of (a) a
3 subunit size when fully hydrated in the range from 0.01 mm to
4 5 mm, (b) an equilibrium swell from 400% to 5000%, and (c) an
5 in vivo degradation time of less than one year.

1 6. The hydrogel of claim 5, having at least two of
2 the three characteristics.

1 7. The hydrogel of claim 5, having all three
2 characteristics.

1 8. The hydrogel of any of claims 1 to 7, said
2 hydrogel being at least partially hydrated with an aqueous
3 medium comprising an active agent.

1 9. The hydrogel of claim 8, wherein the active
2 agent is a clotting agent.

1 10. The hydrogel of claim 9, wherein the clotting
2 agent is thrombin.

1 11. A method for delivering an active agent to a
2 patient, said method comprising administering to a target site
3 on the patient an amount of the hydrogel of any of claims 8 to
4 10.

1 12. A composition comprising a fragmented
2 biocompatible hydrogel being substantially free of an aqueous
3 phase, wherein the hydrogel is at least partially hydrated
4 with an aqueous solution of thrombin.

1 13. A composition as in claim 12, wherein the
2 hydrogel comprises a protein.

1 14. A composition as in claim 13, wherein the
2 protein comprises gelatin.

1 15. A composition as in claim 12, wherein the
2 hydrogel comprises a polysaccharide.

1 16. A composition as in claim 12, wherein the
2 hydrogel comprises a non-biological polymer.

1 17. A composition as in claim 12, wherein the
2 hydrogel comprises two of the following components
3 a) a protein, b) a polysaccharide, and c) a non-biological
4 polymer.

1 18. A composition as in claim 12, wherein the
2 hydrogel comprises a) a protein, b) a polysaccharide and c) a
3 non-biological polymer.

